1897.

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THE THIRTEENTH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

URBAN DISTRICT

OF

CROMER,

Together with the Reports of the Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor.

CROMER:

JARROLD AND SONS, PRINTERS, THE LIBRARY.

1898.

CROMER.

REPORT for 1897.

The continued rapid development of Cromer makes it very difficult to give anything like a true estimate of the resident population. The plan I have gone on like last year is this: I have multiplied the number of inhabited houses by 4.5, thus getting a population of 3,348. I have no doubt for three months of the season the average population doubles this. I must congratulate the Authority on the general health of the district over which they preside during the year 1897. I have to report that the corrected death rate for the year was only 11.6 per 1000 population. I do not know any other Urban District with a lower death rate than this. I think this sufficient answer to the pessimists who occasionally air their grievances in the local press.

The rates may be high, but as long as Cromer has such a low death rate I maintain the ratepayer gets good value for his money. But it must not be imagined from this that I consider everything has yet been done to make Cromer a Utopia of sanitation; we have got on very slowly with the clearing out of rookeries, such as those off West Street, New Street, or the back of Brook Street. I fail to see in spite of all the promises and statements made before the Commissioner this summer, that there is anything like proper cottage accommodation for the working classes. We also are still without a site for a public slaughter-house, although the subject has frequently been discussed. Such a building for a place like Cromer would certainly be a step in the right direction.

There have been several complaints about the stench from the manholes under certain conditions of wind and tide, and I hope when the rest of our new ventilating shafts have been erected that the sealing of these manholes will obviate such complaints in the future; but I must admit that some of these complaints arose from the smell of the tarred slag used for mending the roads, which, after rain, gives off sulphuretted hydrogen gas, which an ignorant nose might easily mistake for sewer gas.

Vital Statistics for 1897.

Area	1,007 Acres
Estimated Population	3,348
Inhabited Houses	728
Rateable Value	£25,845

Birth Rate.

Males.	Females.	Total.	
43	37	80	2 of these were illegitimate.

Birth Rate = 23.9 per 1,000 population.

Illegitimate Birth Rate = 25 per 1,000 births.

Death Rate.

Males.	Females.	Total.
21	26	47

Death Rate 14. Of this number 5 occurred in the Cottage Hospital in non-residents and 3 visitors, therefore, the corrected Death Rate is 11.6, against 12.2 in 1896.

The Causes of Death.

Bronchitis and Pneumonia ...	5
Phthisis	4
Heart Disease	3
Cancer	3
Cerebral	5
Renal	4
Other Diseases	23
Total	47

Deaths at Different Ages.

Under 1 year	5
Over 1 and under 5 years ...	0
„ 5 „ 15 „ ...	4
„ 15 „ 25 „ ...	1
„ 25 „ 65 „ ...	19
„ 65 and upwards	18
	47

Infant Mortality.

Five deaths occurred in infants under the age of one.
= 1.4 per 1,000 population.
= 62 „ 1,000 births.

Phthisis.

There were 4 deaths from Phthisis.
= 1.2 per 1,000 population.

Zymotic Diseases.

There were no deaths from Zymotic Diseases.

Cases Notified under Notification Act.

Scarlet Fever	...	14
Diptheria ...	...	1

Scarlet Fever.

The Scarlet Fever epidemic of 1896 seemed to have died out in May of this year, but after the summer a few more cases broke out in lodging houses that had been used by the visitors, and in December 3 children in one house took the disease. This was traced to a school in Holt, where one of the children went daily.

During the year the Sanitary Authority has purchased a Trillat's Formic Aldehyde Disinfector; this I look upon as a very valuable aid to the disinfection of houses, and it has been used with great success.

Diptheria.

There was only one case notified; it was well outside the town, and I attributed it to a very foul privy used by the patient. This was at once attended to, and there was no further spread.

Typhoid Fever.

Typhoid Fever is a disease unknown in Cromer for the last three years.

Cromer is still without an Isolation Hospital, although the ground has been purchased some time. The plans have been passed by the Authority, but the ways and means are not yet forthcoming. I think it a great pity the Erpingham Union cannot see their way to join in a scheme to amalgamate for this purpose, as the Administration expenses would be thus worked with greater economy to both Authorities.

Houses Condemned.

Seven houses were condemned as structurally unsafe; 3 in West Street have been cleared out and pulled down; 3 others in same locality condemned, and the inhabitants have cleared out of 2; the other will be emptied as soon as another dwelling can be obtained for the inhabitant. Notice has been served on the owner of a house at the back of the Chapel, which is unfit for human habitation.

I recommended the Authority in October to allow me to send a sample of the Service Water to London for chemical analysis and also for bacteriological examination. The specimens were sent off on October the 19th to the Clinical Research Association, and I append their Report in full.

[Copy.]

The Clinical Research Association, Limited.

London, 5th November, 1897.

LABORATORY REPORT.

To Dr. S. Barton.

The specimen of Water received here on 27th Oct. has been duly examined, and I have been instructed to forward the following Report thereon :—

Colour in 2 ft. tube ...	Greenish Blue
Suspended matter ...	None
	Grains per Gallon.
Total Solid Residue (dried at 120°C)	24.74
Combined Chlorine ...	2.90
Expressed as Common Salt ...	4.78
Nitrogen as Nitrates ...	Absent
Nitrites	Absent
Saline Ammonia	Traces only
Albuminoid Ammonia ...	0.0004
Oxygen required to oxidise the Organic matter ...	0.0110
Hardness (in degrees) ...	16.8°
Lead or Copper	Absent

OBSERVATIONS.

A water of excellent quality as regards its chemical constituents. It shows no evidence whatever of pollution, and is safe for drinking purposes.

C. H. WELLS,
Secretary of the Association.

LABORATORY REPORT.

To Dr. S. Barton.

The specimen of Water received here on Oct. 20th has been duly examined, and I have been instructed to forward the following Report thereon :—

This water contained a fairly considerable number of organisms, even allowing for the fact that a certain multiplication takes place during transit. The number we found was 3100 per c.c. When we came to examine for the Bacillus Coli Communis and Bacillus Typhi Abdominalis; however, there was a considerable improvement noticed. There was only a very small number of Bacilli Coli Communis, approximately 1 in 20 c.c., and no Bacilli Typhi Abdominalis.

C. H. WELLS,
Secretary to the Association.

I may remark that the multiplication of organisms is very rapid, and as the sample was not received in London for 48 hours after having been drawn from the tap, the number of micro-organisms had no doubt greatly increased. By the kindness of the Water Works Company I have seen the bacteriological Report made for them by Mr. Sutton, dated Oct. 18th, 1898, which says, "Microbes found to be extremely few in number and of a perfectly harmless character," and the difference I believe to be due to the fact that Mr. Sutton took his sample direct from the well—but as the consumers cannot do this, but have to drink it as it comes from the taps, it behoves the Company to deliver it from the taps as pure as from the well, and I believe a frequent cleansing of the Storage Tanks would render both samples alike. The total absence of the Typhoid Bacillus in both samples is of course of vital importance, and ought to allay any scare that the late Lynn epidemic may have suggested.

The Great Eastern Railway Company are the only owners in Suffield Park that have positively refused to connect their cottages with the Drainage System, preferring to continue the old pan system.

I have made 28 special visits to Cromer, besides chance visits during the year.

I have to thank the Medical Men practising in Cromer for their kind co-operation in carrying out the work of sanitation in the district.

I have also to thank Mr. Scott, the Inspector of Nuisances, for his ready aid under all circumstances.

SAM. BARTON, M.O.H.,

34, Surrey Street, Norwich.

NOTE.

April 14th, 1898.

Since reading my Report for 1897, on February 4th, I have been informed that the Water Works Company have had a Bacteriological examination made of water taken from eight different taps in Cromer, with the result that the only one that had a sample of the Baccillus Coli Communis was that of the Offices of the District Council, from which I also took the sample on October 19th, 1897.

SAM. BARTON.

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TABLE C

During the Year 1897, in the Cromer Urban District

Names of Localities adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; public institutions being shown as separate localities.	Mortality from all Causes, at subjoined Ages.								1
	At all ages	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards		Smallpox.
CROMER	42	5		3	1	16	17	Under 5 5 upwds	
FLETCHER CONVALESCENT HOME	Nil.							Under 5 5 upwds	
COTTAGE HOSPITAL ...	5			1		3	1	Under 5 5 upwds	
Totals	47	5		4	1	19	18	Under 5 5 upwds	

The subjoined numbers have also to be taken in

Deaths occurring outside the district among persons belonging thereto.								Under 5 5 upwds.	
Deaths occurring within the district among persons not belonging thereto.	8			1		6	1	Under 5 5 upwds.	

TABLE OF POPULATION, BIRTHS, and

Coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, duri

Diseases, Ag

	Population at all Ages.		Registered Births.	Aged under 5 or over 5.	New Cases of Sickness knowledge of the				
					1	2	3	4	5
	Census 1891.	Estimated to middle of 1897.			Smallpox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Typhus.
CROMER	2197	3348	80	Under 5 5 upwds		1 13	1		
FLETCHER CONVALESCENT HOME		30		Under 5 5 upwds					
COTTAGE HOSPITAL.									
Totals	2197	3378	80	Under 5 5 upwds		1 13	1		

DEATHS

ed according to **Diseases, Ages, and Localities.**

Mortality from subjoined Causes, distinguishing Deaths of Children under Five Years of Age.																				
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	Fevers.																	
nous Croup.	Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.	Cholera.	Erysipelas.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Diarrhœa and Dysentery.	Rheumatic Fever.	Phthisis.	Bronchitis, Pneumonia, & Pleurisy.	Heart Disease.	*	Injuries.	All other Diseases.	Total.
												4	5	3			5 25	5 37
																		Nil.
																	5	5
												4	5	3			5 30	5 42

mount in judging of the above records of mortality.

NEW CASES OF INFECTIOUS SICKNESS,

year 1897, in the Cromer Urban District; classified according to **nd Localities.**

Locality, coming to the Officer of Health.						Number of such Cases Removed from their Homes in the several Localities for Treatment in Isolation Hospital.													
8	9	10	11	12	13	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
										Fevers.								
Relapsing.	Puerperal.	Cholera.	Erysipelas.			Smallpox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.	Cholera.	Erysipelas.		

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL, CROMER.

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR 1897.

To the Chairman and Members of the Sanitary Committee.

GENTLEMEN,

Suffield Park Sewers.

In the early part of the year the whole of the new sewerage system for Suffield Park was completed, and notices were at once served on the various houses adjoining, to connect thereto, and in a short time all the houses (except Jubilee Cottages, to which no sewer was taken) were connected to the sewer; and earth closets and privies converted into W.C.'s, except to the Railway Cottages; the G.E.R. Company being the only owners in the district who have refused to comply with the Council's request to abolish privies and E.C.'s.

In connecting the houses with the sewers the old cesspools have been cleared out, and properly filled up.

Suffield Park Water Supply.

The Water Company have completed their water tower, so that they are able to supply the whole of the district. Most of the houses have the water laid on. The few remaining wells in this locality are in such positions that they are not likely to become contaminated.

Infectious Diseases.

The cases of Infectious Diseases reported from time to time during the year have immediately received attention, and disinfectants and "Instructions" supplied to the occupiers of the infected houses, and isolation of the patients, and disinfection of the goods and premises carried out as far as possible.

The Council have purchased a "Trillatts" disinfector, which has beed used where required.

Isolation Hospital.

The question of an Infectious Diseases Hospital still remains unsettled.

Reduced plans for a hospital for 2 male and 2 female patients with administrative block and laundry, &c., have been made, and the cost estimated at £1,500. The plans and application for a loan have been before the Local Government Board some months, and the medical adviser of the Board has been interviewed, but no reply has yet been received.

Public Conveniences.

The Lion Steps have been provisionally purchased for a site in which to provide W.C., Lavatory, and Cloak Room accommodation for both sexes. Plans have been prepared, and an application for a loan made to the Local Government Board. It was hoped that a reply would have been obtained soon enough to get these very much needed buildings ready for the next season, but as the enquiry has not yet been held it will not, I fear, be possible to do so.

Sewerage Outfall Pipe.

The Council have had under consideration the various methods suggested to improve the present outfall, and, with a view to obtain the best opinion, the Chief Engineer of the Local Government Board was consulted, with the result that the Council have decided to extend the present outfall pipe 300 feet further into the sea, and plans have been prepared and application made to the Local Government Board for a loan.

House Scavenging.

The House Scavenging for Cromer, including Suffield Park, has been in the hand of one contractor, and has been carried out with but very few complaints from the householders, and as the refuse is carted to Roughton it is no nuisance to the town. It will be desirable that there should be an additional van provided before the season.

Sanitary Census Work.

The work of testing the drains, and serving notices where defects have been found or recorded, has been proceeded with. A large number of old houses where the drains pass under the them have been smoke tested. In one case, on testing one house, no smoke was found in it, but the adjoining house was filled with smoke.

Overcrowding and Insanitary Areas.

This subject has engaged the attention of the committee, but no effectual measures can be taken until there are a number of small houses erected to relieve the present congested condition.

With a view to provide additional houses under the "Housing of the Working Classes Act," negociations were opened by the Council to purchase the "Overstrand Poor Land," and plans and estimates for 36 houses prepared. The negociations for this site fell through, and another site near by was proposed. Eventually that also fell through.

Although no buildings have yet been erected by the Council, probably the result of their action has been beneficial, as cottage sites can now be purchased in this locality, and 16 six-roomed houses have been erected during the year.

There must, however, be a considerable increase in the number of these houses before the supply is equal to the demand.

During the year notices for closing seven houses—either structurally dangerous or sanitarily bad—have been given.

Flushing Sewers.

During the year the Council have purchased a two-horse street watering van, holding 600 gallons. The van is fitted with a 4 inch outlet, with valve and hose-pipe attached for flushing gulleys, and a 12-inch outlet, with valve and hose-pipe attached for flushing sewers.

This has enabled us to organize a systematic method of flushing gulleys and manholes, and manhole inspection.

Every manhole is numbered, and its condition and the date of its inspection and flushing recorded.

The following table shows the work done since July, under this system :—Inspecting and clearing manholes, 1,411 ; flushing manholes, 148 ; and every gulley in the town has been flushed four times.

Ventilation Shafts.

Orders have been given for 36 additional ventilation shafts (36 feet or 48 feet high) to be fixed in the town, mainly to Suffield Park and Macdonald Estate new sewerage systems.

The principal of these have been fixed during the year.

Street Paving.

The principal streets in the town are now curbed, and the foot-ways and carriage-ways laid with tar asphalte paving.

The advantages of this are seen, not only in the comfort to the users of the streets, and the quiet to the residents, but also in the watering and scavenging, and, not least, from their better sanitary condition.

Approval of Plans under the Bye-laws.

During the year 100 sets of plans and sections have been submitted for new buildings, or alteration to existing buildings, and for road or sewer making ; 93 of these were approved.

Proceedings have been taken against two persons for infringement of the Building Bye-laws, and one for blocking up the foot-way with goods.

The following notices have been served, and the necessary work has been, or is being carried out to comply with same :—

Drains and W.C. drains not ventilated ...	38
Closets with defective or without water supply	8
W.C.'s not ventilated	16
Deficient W.C. accommodation ...	9
Sinks connected direct to sewer	3
Remove soil pipes from inside houses ...	2
Remove gulley, etc	1
Relay defective drainage	8
Unblock drains	4
Pave or drain back yard or other yards ...	8
Ventilate rooms in houses	3
Overcrowding	1
Closing houses	7
Connect house drains to sewer ...	65
Testing old house drains	20
Providing fresh air inlet	23
Abate smoke nuisance	1
Empty manure bin	1
	218

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

A. F. SCOTT,

Sanitary Inspector.

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL, CROMER.

REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR FOR THE YEAR 1897.

To the Chairman and Members of the Highways Committee.

GENTLEMEN,

Suffield Park Sewer.

The defect in the main Sewer caused by the settlement of one of the manholes (from the blowing sand forcing itself through the bottom of the manhole) having been put right, the sewers were able to be used in the early part of the year, and the district was connected on as expeditiously as possible.

Other Sewers.

Sewers have been laid in Corner Street, Canada to Cadogan back passages, Cabbell and Cadogan Road Ornamental Garden, and Mill Lane back passages, by the owners.

Ventilation Shafts.

Thirty-six additional Ventilation Shafts, varying from 36 feet to 48 feet high, have been ordered by the Council, mainly for Suffield Park and Macdonald Estate new sewerage systems, and the principal of these have been fixed during the year.

Road Making.

The Loke has been widened into a 30 feet road, with land given by the School Board. The Council have made up the carriage way and kerbed and laid tar paths each side.

The trees and guards were presented by Lady Buxton.

The part of Overstrand Road (widened last year), opposite the Links Hotel, has been made up, and granite kerb and tar paths laid by the Council, and the part of the roadway opposite Mr. R. Hoare's new house has been widened to 36 feet, and a granite kerb and tar path laid on one side at the expense of the frontager.

Plans for widening Mill Lane to 36 feet have been submitted, and a portion of the land thrown into the roadway and houses built abutting thereon, but the roadway has not yet been made, nor paths or kerb laid.

This is a matter which needs to be pushed forward, and it would be much more satisfactory if at least the foundation of the roadway and the kerbs were fixed in all cases before the houses were built adjoining thereto. Until that is done it is not possible to avoid the varying height of the floor lines of the houses and entrance gate steps. Sometimes they are too high, and at others below the finished level of the pathways.

Corner Street has been kerbed and paved and the roadway made up by the owners.

Mount Street, Bond Street, Cross Street, Cambridge Street, St. Margaret's Road and Back Passage, have been made up by contract at the expense of the frontagers, prior to being taken over by the Council. In the case of Lower Mount Street and Bond Street the Council have contributed half the extra cost of the tar asphalte paving to the Carriage ways.

Ordinary Road Maintenance.

The Hall Road has been repaired from the Hall to the hill past the Hall farm.

The Holt Road has been well repaired from the corner of Sandy Lane to the Felbrigg boundary.

The Runton Road has had a coating on part of the distance from the top of the hill to the boundary.

The Overstrand Road has been well repaired from Mill Lane to the boundary.

The Norwich Road has been made up with granite from Roughton Road turn to the G.E.R. Station Gates.

Work under the £3,500 Street Improvement Loan.

Considerable work under this head has been done. The necessary kerb and tar paths have been laid, and the carriage ways laid with tarred iron slag in Church Street from Prince of Wales' Road to Overstrand Road, also to Hans Place, High Street, the widened part of Tucker Street and the Lion Cliff; and a tar path laid to Runton Road from Prince of Wales' Road to Cabbell Road.

These tar asphalte roads are being much appreciated by the residents, a question often asked being "When is the road in front of my house going to be done?" Many visitors come and express appreciation and make enquiries as to how they are made and their cost, &c.

Towards the end of the year the Mayor and a member of an important watering place made a special journey to Cromer to see these roads and make enquiries as to cost, as they were about to start a paving scheme in their town.

In the foggy November weather a short length of road became "greasy." This will, it is hoped, be prevented in future by cleansing it.

As a shower of rain washes these roads so clean, is it not desirable in the dry times during the season to wash them two or three times a week before breakfast? This would much improve the cleanly appearance of the town, and be beneficial in flushing the gullies.

Flushing Sewers, &c.

The ordinary work of examining and flushing the sewers and cleansing the gullies has been regularly attended to, and some additional gulleys have been fixed.

As the Council have purchased a two-horse street watering van, holding 600 gallons, and specially fitted with 4-inch and 12-inch valves and hose pipes for flushing gulleys and sewers, it has been possible to regularly flush the gulleys and sewers, and to enable this to be done systematically every manhole has been numbered, and its condition and the date of each inspection and flushing recorded.

The following table shews the work done since July under this system :—

Inspecting and cleansing manholes ...	1,411
Flushing manholes	148

and every gulley in the town has been flushed four times.

Street Scavenging and Street Watering.

The Street Scavenging has received every attention, and during the season the streets were cleaned up early on Sunday mornings as well.

The Street Sweeper which was proposed, but not ordered, by the Council would be found to be a great acquisition.

The total amount of water registered as used in street watering and flushing during the year was over $1\frac{1}{4}$ million gallons. This was above the average owing to the dry season.

Street Lighting.

Additional lamps have been put up in various parts of the town (in all 25 new lamps.) The incandescent lighting has not yet been adopted throughout, and with our present arrangement of

the Gas Company being responsible for the burner and the Council for the lantern and lighting and cleaning, it is not likely to be a success.

It is highly desirable that one body only should have control of the whole.

Housing of the Working Classes.

The Committee have had this subject before them, and have made a special report thereon. Efforts were made to purchase the "Overstrand Poor Land," on which it was proposed to erect 36 Cottages facing Mill Lane, and use the back land for a store yard, but the negociations fell through. Steps were also taken to provide sites for these houses in conjunction with a Recreation ground and Store yard, and a loan applied for. After the Inquiry held by the Local Government Board they replied that "It did not appear to them that the circumstances were such as to justify them in sanctioning the proposed loan."

Probably as the result of the action of the Committee cottage sites can now be purchased in this locality, and 16 six-roomed houses have been erected during the year, but this does not anything like supply the needed cottage accommodation, and it is feared that houses at the rents which the Council hoped to charge have yet to be provided. There are still many very unsatisfactory cottages, but until more small houses are provided it has been found impossible to do more than has been done to close them. As it is, notices for closing seven houses either structurally dangerous or sanitarily bad have been given.

A site for a Store yard has not yet been found. This is very much needed.

East Gangway.

This question has been occupying a good deal of attention, and interviews and conferences with the fishermen and Life Boat Authorities have been held, with the result that on a compromise to reduce the length some 20 feet out on the beach the Life Boat Institution and the Board of Trade have withdrawn their opposition, and the necessary plans and estimates and application for loan have been sent to the Local Government Board.

Public Conveniences.

With every effort to cope with this matter in time to provide the much needed accommodation for next "Season," there is, I fear, not likely to be any resnlt.

A site has been conditionally purchased under the Lion steps, and plans and estimates made for W.C., lavatories, and cloak room accommodation for both sexes; and application for a loan sent to the Local Government Board. No Inquiry has yet been held and no sanction to proceed obtained.

Sewerage Outfall Pipe.

The Council have had under consideration various methods to improve the sewer outfall, and with a view to obtain the best opinion the chief Engineer at the Local Government Board was consulted, with the result that the Council have decided to extend the present outfall pipe 300 feet further into the sea, and plans have been prepared, and application made for a loan to the Local Government Board.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

A. F. SCOTT,

Surveyor.

JARROLD & SONS, THE LIBRARY, CROMER.